

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01361 090221Z

70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01

/084 W

----- 073612

R 090200Z NOV 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 960

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 1361

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. :11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: PEKING OPERA ALLUSIONS

REF: HONG KONG 11167

1. WHILE USLO FINDS INTRIGUING THE POSSIBILITY THAT LEADING MALE CHARACTER IN TU CHUAN SHAN MAY BE REPRESENTATION OF CHOU EN-LAI, WE ARE INCLINED TOWARD CAUTION IN EXTENDING ANALOGIES IN THE PLAY TO OTHER THAN THE LIN PIAO FIGURE. BOTH TIMES WE SAW THE OPERA IT DID NOT OCCUR TO US THAT THE HEAVYSET, BUMBLING, IMPETUOUS, UNSOPHISTICATED LEI KANG BORE ANY RESEMBLANCE TO THE URBANE, CAUTIOUS AND SOPHISTICATED CHOU. WE DOUBT THAT THE AVERAGE CHINESE OPERA GOER WOULD SEE PARALLEL WITH CHOU, HOLE IN SHOE INCIDENT NOTWITHSTANDING. BY CONTRAST, LIN PIAO CHARACTER EVEN RESEMBLES HIM PHYSICALLY. STRUCTURALLY, THE PARALLEL IS ASKEW. LEI KANG IS THE LEADER, THE TRAITOR IS HIS DEPUTY. THIS IS NOT A RELATIONSHIP THAT CHOU HAD WITH LIN, OR THAT

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WOULD HELP IDENTIFY CHOU WITH LEI KANG. THE CLOSEST

PARALLEL THAT LOCAL PURVEYORS OF SPECULATION CAME UP WITH  
IS THAT LEI IS REALLY A YOUNG MAO, BUT THEY UTTER THIS  
UNDER THEIR BREATHS.

2. AS REGARDS FEMALE PARTY REPRESENTATIVE, THIS CHARACTER  
HAS BY NOW BECOME STANDARD IN A NUMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY  
OPERAS. NO DOUBT IT IS A REFLECTION OF CHIANG CHINGS'S  
INFLUENCE, BUT WE QUESTION WHETHER TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE  
SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE APPEARANCE OF YET ANOTHER FEMALE  
REVOLUTIONARY OPERA HEORINE.

3. IN SHORT, TWO THEMES ARE CLEAR : (1) INEVITABLE FALL  
OF TRAITORS LIKE LIN PIAO, AND (2) THE PARTY COMMANDS  
THE GUN. BEYOND THAT WE HESITATE TO VENTURE IN DRAWING  
PARALLELS WITH THE CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE.  
BRUCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 NOV 1973  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** PEKING  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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